MARVEL COMICS
DEAD MAN'S HAND
part VII
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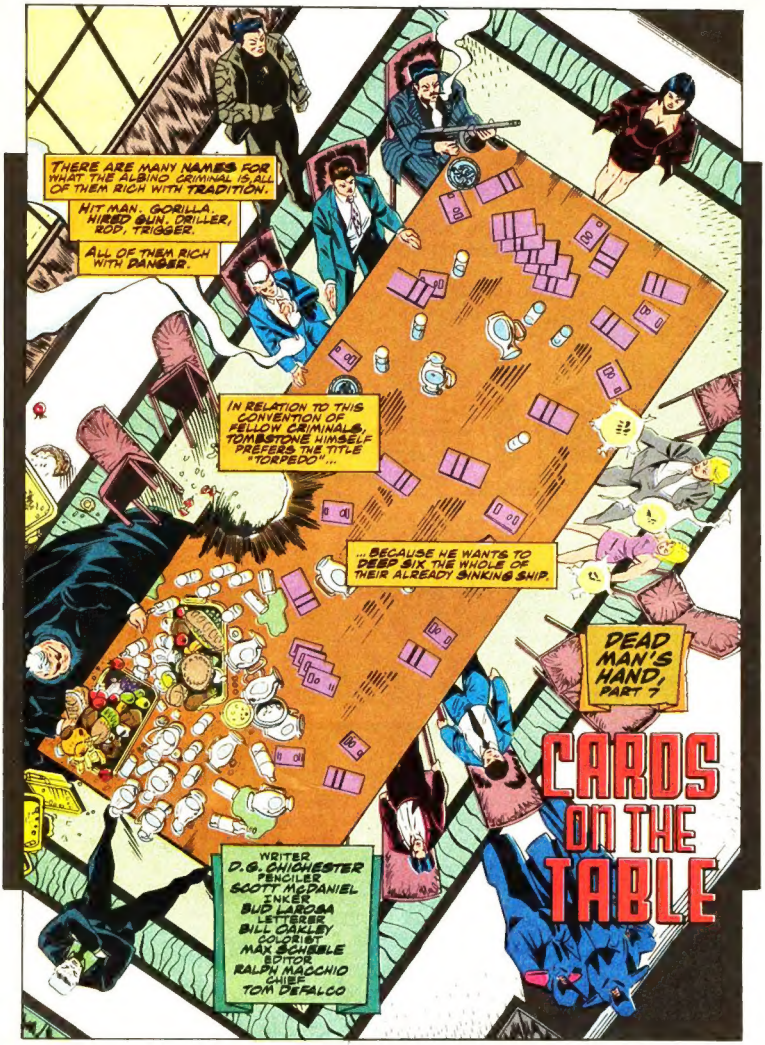
DAREDEVIL
THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!
THE HAND IS DEALT!
McDANIEL & LARROCA

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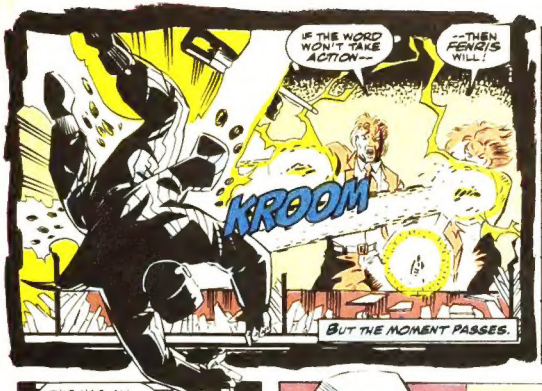
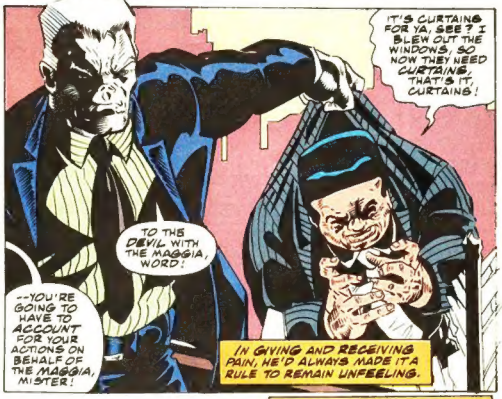
CARVING UP THE FALLEN KINGPIN'S EMPIRE OF VICE BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER.
LOOK, YOU FIGHT IT OUT -- ME, I JUST WANT MY FAIR SHARE!
URRP!
SOME, LIKE THE MIAMI-BASED SLUG, HAD OTHER AGENDAS.
BUT IT WAS THE INCLUSION OF THE HATED JONIN OF THE NINJA HAND THAT INSTILLED A PASSION IN THE NORMALLY COLD HATCHET MAN --
THE YAKUZA WILL NOT STAND FOR THIS GAIJAN'S OBVIOUSLY RACIAL ATTACKS ON OUR BROTHERS UNDER JONIN'S LEADERSHIP!
WE APPRECIATE YOUR EMPATHY, TETSUO... AS I'M SURE THE REST OF YOU APPRECIATE THE HARSH ACTIONS WE'VE BEEN FORCED TO TAKE!
OUR STANDING NECESSITATES PROVING OUR OWN POWER IN THE FACE OF TOMBSTONE'S ANTAGONISM!
--THE CONVICTION THAT MOCK DIVILITY IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR RAW BRUTALITY.
IS WHAT THEY SAY TRUE, TOMBSTONE? TOMBSTONE!
NOW WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY, MR. VON STRUCKER...
THANK YOU, SNAKESKIN. YOU'RE... RIGHT, OF COURSE.
I ONCE AGAIN REITERATE MY OFFER OF FAIR SHARES AND PROTECTION UNDER THE BANNER OF MY NEW HYDRA!
YOUNG WERNER'S PROPOSAL IS BENEFICIAL TO SPEEDING THESE PROCEEDINGS ALONG! I'VE ALREADY ADVISED MY COLLEAGUES AT ROXXON TO CONSIDER--
FOR THE FINAL TIME, HAMMER, NO, NO, NO!
ANDREAS AND I WILL CONDONE NOTHING THAT LEGITIMIZES THAT S.O.B.'S CLAIM TO OUR LATE FATHER'S ORGANIZATION!
KRZZZKMM
SIBLING RIVALRY AMONG THE VON STRUCKER CHILDREN.
AN INEVITABLE TRAGEDY OF IDENTITY AND PERSONALITY.
IT IS GOOD THAT THE SECRET EMPIRE HAS NO CONCERN WITH EITHER.

WHERE DOES THIS INFIGHTING GET US?
TOP OF THE WORLD IS WHERE, MA!
BRAKA! BRAKA! BRAKA!
TOP OF THE WORLD!
KEERAAASHH!
NOW, THINKS THE BUTTON MAN, WHILE BACKS ARE TURNED AND ATTENTION IS DIVERTED TOWARD HAMMERHEAD'S CINEMA-INSPIRED INSANITY--
THIS IS INEXCUSABLE! WORD, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THIS?
ME? HOW AM I RESPONSIBLE?
LISTEN TO YOU, HOLDING COURT BECAUSE OF YOUR RED SKULL CONNECTIONS, BUT NOW THAT THERE'S A LITTLE PRESSURE, YOU CAN'T CUT IT!
LET ME ONCE AGAIN REITERATE MY OFFER.
--SATISFACTION IN COLD STEEL, AND HOT LEAD.


IF THE WORD WON'T TAKE ACTION--
--THEN FENRIS WILL!
KROOM
BUT THE MOMENT PASSES.

T-TOP OF THE...
...MA?

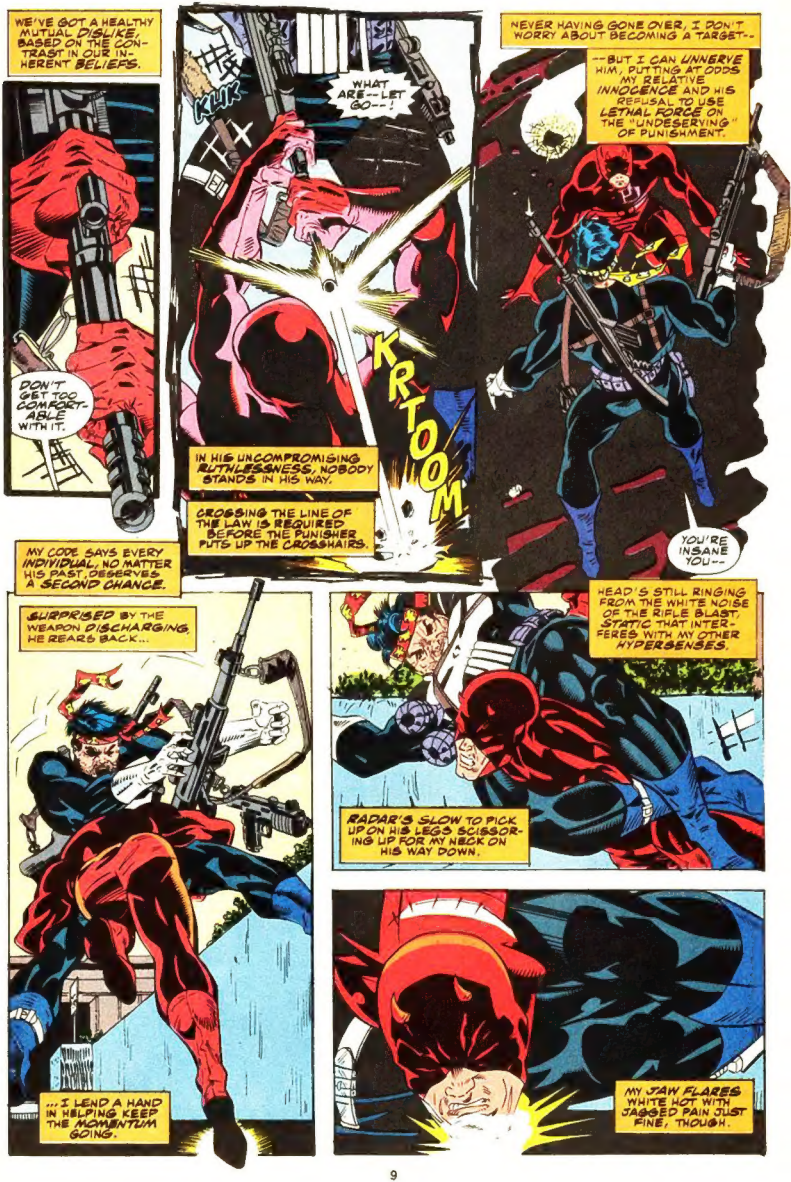
THIS HAS ALL GONE--UM, LET'S TRY AND CONTAIN--OHEIM, ADDRESSING TOMBSTONE'S IMPROPRIETIES FIRST--
DRAG YOURSELVES DOWN!
ANDREA AND I ARE ABOVE THIS SORT OF THING!
THE MUTANTS DEMONSTRATE SOME DEGREE OF COMMON SENSE, BUT THE REST RETURN TO THEIR FACADE OF POLICY MAKERS...
...IN A BUSINESS THE ICEMAN KNOWS ALL TOO WELL IS ONLY ABOUT THE MANUFACTURE OF PAIN.


IT'S CURTAINS FOR YA, SEE? I BLEW OUT THE WINDOWS, SO NOW THEY NEED CURTAINS. THAT'S IT, CURTAINS!
TO THE DEVIL WITH THE MAGGIA, WORD!
--YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ACCOUNT FOR YOUR ACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE MAGGIA, MISTER!
IN GIVING AND RECEIVING PAIN, HE'D ALWAYS MADE IT A RULE TO REMAIN UNFEELING.

AND WITH YOU, JONIN...
THEN THE HAND BETRAYED HIS DESIRE TO BELONG TO SOMETHING, ABUSING AN OUTSIDER DESPERATE TO FIT IN ANYWHERE.
THE DESIRE NOW IS FOR THEIR BLOOD ON HIS HANDS, THEIR SUFFERING IN HIS EARS, THE THRILL OF SEEING FEAR IN THEIR EYES.
TOMBSTONE'S WILLING TO BREAK HIS RULE FOR THE CHANCE TO FEEL ALL THOSE THINGS.

A CHILDHOOD ACCIDENT STOLE HIS SIGHT, BUT, INCREDIBLY, IT ENDOWED YOUNG MATT MURDOCK WITH RADAR VISION AND HEIGHTENED SENSES. ARMED ONLY WITH HIS ATHLETIC PROWESS, BILLY CLUB, AND INDOMITABLE COURAGE, MATT BATTLES INJUSTICE AS A CRIMSON-CLAD GLADIATOR!

STAN LEE PRESENTS: **DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!**


WE'VE GOT A HEALTHY MUTUAL DISLIKE, BASED ON THE CONTRAST IN OUR INHERENT BELIEFS.
DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE WITH IT.
KLIK
WHAT ARE--LET GO--!
KRTOOM
IN HIS UNCOMPROMISING RUTHLESSNESS, NOBODY STANDS IN HIS WAY.
CROSSING THE LINE OF THE LAW IS REQUIRED BEFORE THE PUNISHER PUTS UP THE CROSSHAIRS.
NEVER HAVING GONE OVER, I DON'T WORRY ABOUT BECOMING A TARGET--
--BUT I CAN UNNERVE HIM, PUTTING AT ODDS MY RELATIVE INNOCENCE AND HIS REFUSAL TO USE LETHAL FORCE ON THE "UNDESERVING" OF PUNISHMENT.
YOU'RE INSANE YOU--
MY CODE SAYS EVERY INDIVIDUAL, NO MATTER HIS PAST, DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE.
SURPRISED BY THE WEAPON DISCHARGING, HE REARS BACK...
...I LEND A HAND IN HELPING KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING.
HEAD'S STILL RINGING FROM THE WHITE NOISE OF THE RIFLE BLAST, STATIC THAT INTERFERES WITH MY OTHER HYPERSENSES.
RADAR'S SLOW TO PICK UP ON HIS LEGS SCISSORING UP FOR MY NECK ON HIS WAY DOWN.
MY JAW FLARES WHITE HOT WITH JAGGED PAIN JUST FINE, THOUGH.

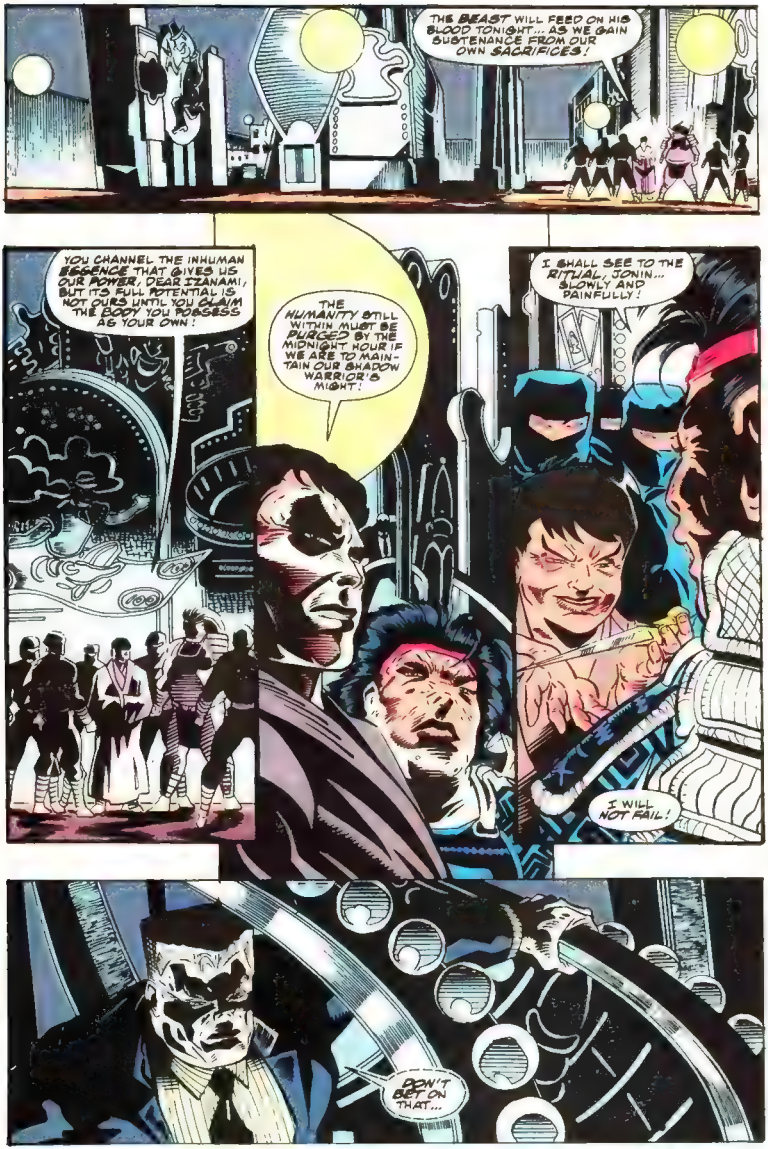
OILED STEEL SLIDES ON RICH LEATHER, SCENT AND SOUND THE FIRST WARNING.
A RAZOR EDGE OF WARMTH MILLISECONDS AHEAD OF HEATED METAL, CARVING SENSATION WHERE PUNISHER WANTS TO MAKE HIS MARK.
THWAP
UH-UH.
YOU WANT A PIECE OF ME FOR OLD TIMES SAKE, PUNISHER, SAVE IT FOR LATER.
THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON IN VEGAS THAT NEEDS TAKING DOWN MORE THAN US TAKING DOWN EACH OTHER!
THWIIT
... AND MAYBE I'LL STILL TAKE A PIECE NOW, FOR "OLD TIMES"?
THIS WISEGUY CAUGUS? MAYBE YOU MAKE SENSE FOR A CHANGE, HORNHEAD...
I DON'T GIVE HIM THE SATISFACTION OF A REACTION.
BUT THE TIME'S GOING TO COME WHEN THESE FACE-OFFS BETWEEN US WON'T KEEP ENDING WITH IT BEING MY BLOOD ON MY HANDS...

WHERE ARE THEY NOW -- HAMMER, SLUG, THE REST?
SOME AT THE AIRPORT, MR. YON STRUCKER -- OTHERS WITH THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION.
DISGUSTED OR UNEASY OR BOTH, THEY WANT OUT OF TOWN TONIGHT!
AS IF THE DARK CAN COVER WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY'RE GOING? IDIOTS!
THEY'RE RIGHT WHERE I WANT THEM -- EXCELLENT!
"RIGHT WHERE I WANT THEM -- EXCELLENT!"
HMMM?
AH, OLD HABITS!
THAT'S BETTER!
FWMMPT

RIGHT WHERE I WANT THEM! I DID IT! I WON!
NO, CHILD...
...IT IS I WHO AM THE VICTOR THIS DAY!
F-FATHER... YOU'RE HURTING...
THAT IS THE IDEA, WERNER--HARDSHIP BUILDS DISCIPLINE, AND WEEDS OUT THE WEAK!
LIKE THESE CRIMINALS--SO EASILY PLAYED AGAINST EACH OTHER INTO DISCORD!
DISTRUST ISOLATES THEM, MAKING THEIR ORGANIZATIONS SUSCEPTIBLE SHOULD WE EVER HAVE NEED OF THEIR PETTY VICES!
AND AS THEY MAKE THEIR RETREAT, THE HIND WILL SERVE IT'S BEAST, SLAUGHTERING THESE "LEADERS" FOR ME!
ANARCHY WHICH SEPARATES THE IMPOTENT FROM SURVIVORS LIKE HYDRA!

I'M ... I'M A SURVIVOR, FATHER! I'VE HELPED YOU HERE, BEEN YOUR FACADE -- WE'VE KEPT YOUR RETURN OUR SECRET!
N-NOW I DESERVE RECOGNITION! A FAIR PLACE IN RUNNING HYDRA FOR REAL!
IF NOT, I'M SURE PROOF THAT YOU'RE ALIVE... AGAIN... MIGHT PROVE INTERESTING TO PEOPLE LIKE NICK FURY!
BLACKMAIL, WERNER? IS THIS A SPINE, MY SON?
YOU MAKE ME PROUD! YOU DO HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A WORTHY SUCCESSOR!
AS SUCH, I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO LIVE...
W-WHAT?
DIE.
I'M SORRY-- I DIDN'T MEAN-- LET ME MAKE IT UP TO YOU, WHAT CAN I DO?!?
THE DEATH SPORE VIRUS THAT REANIMATES MY BODY IS NOWHERE NEAR SO BENEFICIAL TO YOURS!
THAT'S A GOOD BOY.

"ALAS, POOR WERNER, I KNEW HIM WELL!"
NO, ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT TRUE, IS IT, MR. VON STRUCKER?
CLATCH
NOT THAT IT'S EVER TOO LATE WHERE I'M CONCERNED...


THE BEAST WILL FEED ON HIS BLOOD TONIGHT... AS WE GAIN SUBSTENANCE FROM OUR OWN SACRIFICES!
YOU CHANNEL THE INHUMAN ESSENCE THAT GIVES US OUR POWER, DEAR IZANAMI, BUT ITS FULL POTENTIAL IS NOT OURS UNTIL YOU CLAIM THE BODY YOU POSSESS AS YOUR OWN!
THE HUMANITY STILL WITHIN MUST BE PURGED BY THE MIDNIGHT HOUR IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN OUR SHADOW WARRIOR'S MIGHT!
I SHALL SEE TO THE RITUAL, JONIN... SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY!
I WILL NOT FAIL!
DON'T BET ON THAT...

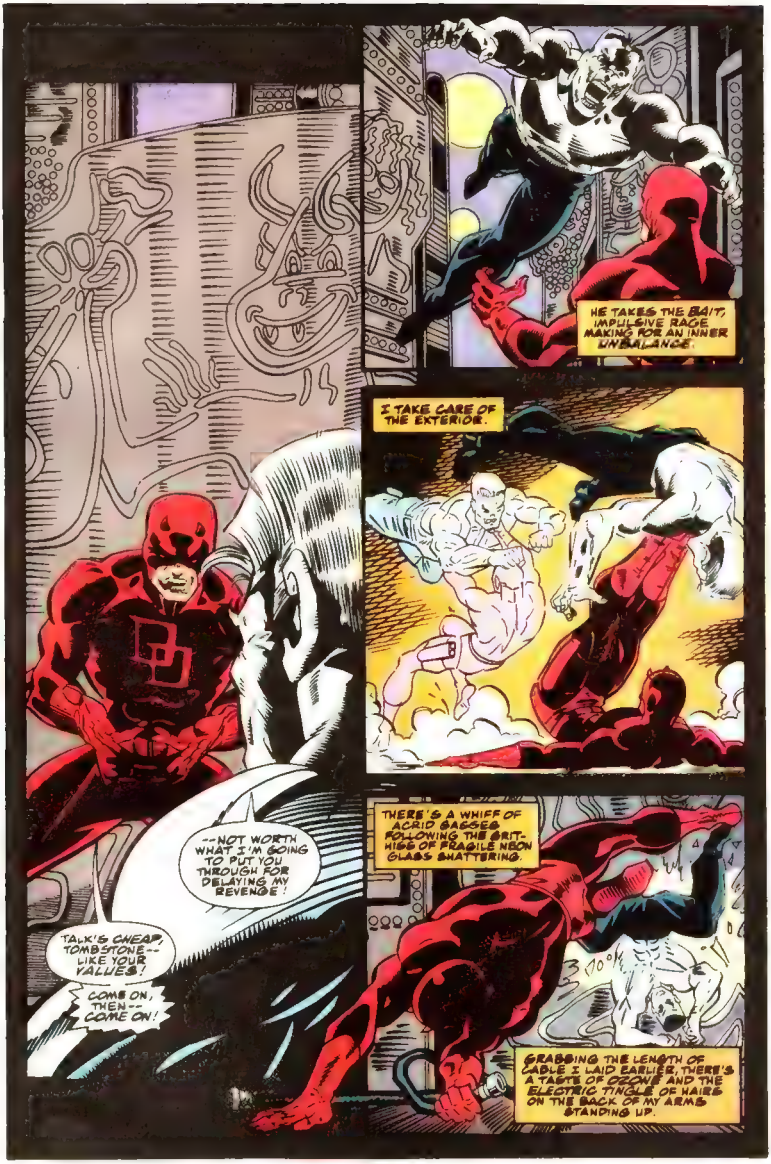
MAYBE IT SOUNDS MELODRAMATIC, BUT WHEN YOU'VE LIVED YOUR LIFE THROUGH HYPERACTIVE SENSES, YOU CAN FEEL THE TENSION IN THE AIR.
NOT TO MENTION SCENTING A DISSOLVED NINJA'S REEK, FOCUSING ON TRACKING IT BACK TO ITS SOURCE.
STILL, EVEN HEIGHTENED PERCEPTION CAN ONLY "SEE" SO MUCH.
IT PAYS TO HAVE ANOTHER SET OF EYES -- WORKING ONES.
Nevada
Naomi Chu
SECURITY LOCKED UP THE PURSE AND I.D. WHEN THEIR BEWITCHED OWNER WANDERED OUT OF THE CASINO AND INTO THE HAND. THE PUNISHER IS WILLING TO FOLLOW MY LEAD IN SAVING HER...
-- FOR THE SOLE REASON THAT BREAKING IZANAMI'S SPELL ALSO BREAKS OFF THE PLANNED BLOODBATH OF THE OTHER GANGSTERS.
AND THE PUNISHER WANTS THEM ALL TO HIMSELF.

NOT ALL MOTIVES ON THE CHU WOMAN'S BEHALF ARE SO MALEVOLENT...
YEAH, THAT FAT BROAD CAME THROUGH HERE...
BUT THE COPS TOLD ME TALK TO NO ONE, LEAST A ALL SOME LONER WITH AN ATTITUDE!
ROOM RATES $10, hour $40, nite
KRASH!
I PREFER "NOMAD" TO "LONER."
...ALTHOUGH METHODS ARE OPEN TO DEBATE.
COPS TELL YOU THE NAME OF A GOOD DENTIST, TOO? START TALKING...
IT PAYS TO HAVE THOSE EXTRA EYES.
AND DEALING FOR INFORMATION WITH A MERCENARY NAMED TERROR, IT COSTS, AS WELL.
DO YOU ENJOY THE THEATER, DAREDEVIL? I DO!
UNFORTUNATELY, MY APPEARANCE OFTEN PRECLUDES THE BEST SEATS!
REAL LIFE DOESN'T LEAVE A LOT OF TIME FOR MAKE-BELIEVE. WHAT ABOUT NAOMI CHU'S LIFE?
YOU'RE A DEMANDING SOUL, VIGILANTE! I'VE BEEN QUITE FORTHCOMING IN SHARING MY KNOWLEDGE

NOW IT'S YOURS... WHOSE WAS IT BEFORE THAT? WHAT BODY PART GAVE YOU WHAT YOU'RE GIVING ME?
CONTROL YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, SIR. MY TRANSACTIONS IN THIS REGARD WERE ENTIRELY POSTHUMOUS.
YOUR CONCERN SHOULD BE FOR THE HERE AND NOW -- IN PARTICULAR, THE SPECIFICS OF OUR OWN BARGAIN!
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
THE CONCENTRATION OF SUPER HEROIC ALTRUISM IN NEW YORK CITY HAS LONG IMPEDED MY DOING BUSINESS THERE.
BUT THE DAY MAY COME WHEN THAT IS UNAVOIDABLE, AND AT THAT TIME IT WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO HAVE A... FRIEND... IN TOWN
I'M NOT SURE I'LL LIKE YOUR "BUSINESS" OR YOUR "FRIENDSHIP."
I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOU WILL NOT...
... STILL, THOSE ARE THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH WE HAVE COME TO THIS AGREEMENT.
TELL ME THE REST

WE SERVE AT YOUR HAND, GREAT BEAST!
DEATH MEANS ONLY TWO THINGS, BIDTER!
THIS INSIGNIFICANT LIFE WILL GAIN MEANING IN DEATH!
THWOK
WHO DARES?!?
FOOD FOR THE WORMS DOWN BELOW...
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THIS MYSTIC BULL--
FWAMM
...AND A STONE COLD TOMBSTONE ABOVE!
KRAAK

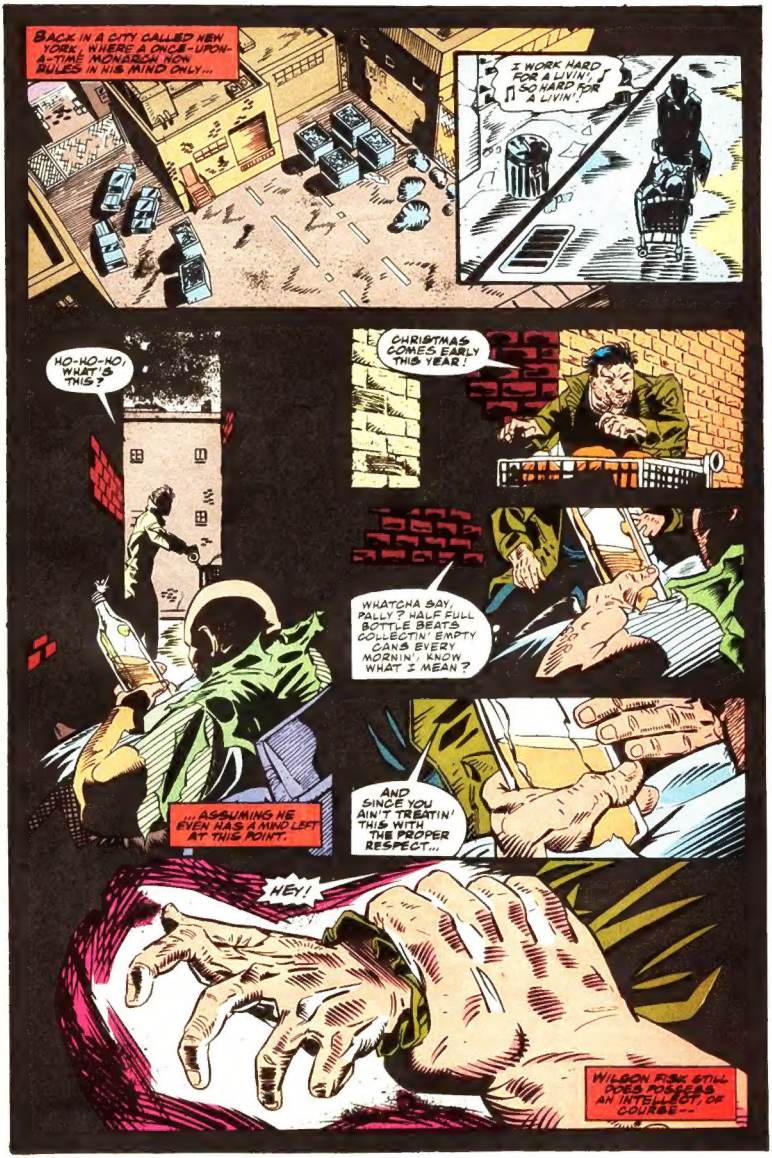
--BUT IF MESSING IT UP GIVES JONIN AND THE REST OF YOU GRIEF, THEN I'M ALL FOR IT!
YOU'LL BUY IT BY MIDNIGHT, "DEAR IZANAMI," BUT CLEAN CUT RITUAL'S NOT MY STYLE!
I'M A MEAT AND BONE MAN, MYSELF!
EVERYTHING I LEARNED WORKS TO BRING ME TO THIS PLACE
PART OF IT NOW IS TIMING.
GAUGING THE RADAR IMAGE OF THE KNIFE AS IT PLUNGES, A STROBING ECHO OF MOTION AND REALITY
TWAANK
KWMMF
THE REST OF T'S FAITH
DAREDEVIL!
SHE'S NOT WORTH IT, RED MAN--

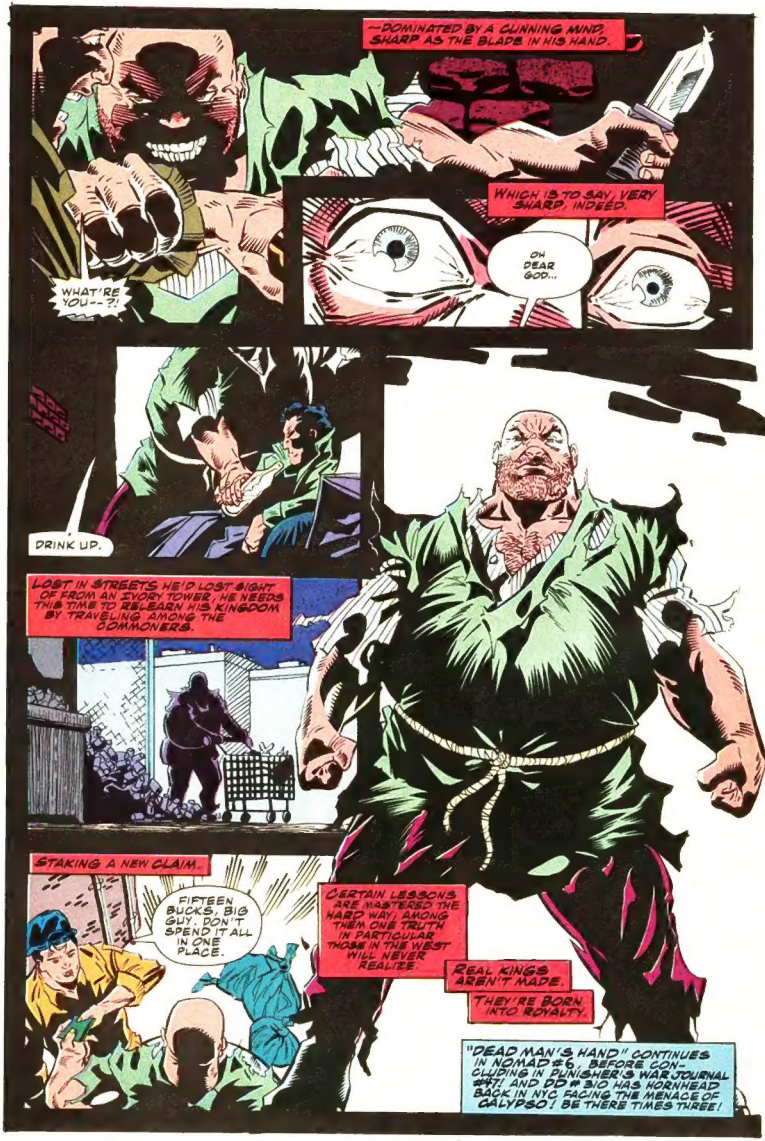

HE TAKES THE BAIT, IMPULSIVE RAGE MAKING FOR AN INNER UNBALANCE.
I TAKE CARE OF THE EXTERIOR.
--NOT WORTH WHAT I'M GOING TO PUT YOU THROUGH FOR DELAYING MY REVENGE!
TALK'S CHEAP, TOMBSTONE--LIKE YOUR VALUES!
COME ON, THEN--COME ON!
THERE'S A WHIFF OF ACRID GASSES FOLLOWING THE BRITTLE HISS OF FRAGILE NEON GLASS SHATTERING.
GRABBING THE LENGTH OF CABLE I LAID EARLIER, THERE'S A TASTE OF OZONE AND THE ELECTRIC TINGLE OF HAIRS ON THE BACK OF MY ARMS STANDING UP.

TOMBSTONE KNOWS THE FEELING.
ZZTKRAAKLE!
KRZZT

LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE IN THIS CITY, JOINING THE NEON GRAVEYARD AGAINST THE HITMAN IS A GAMBLE.
IT'S EVEN MONEY THE SHOCK WILL TAKE THE EDGE OFF THE VINDICTIVE FURY FUELING HIS CURRENT RAMPAGE.
HNNGH
THERE'S ALSO A FIFTY-FIFTY CHANCE IT'LL SEND HIM EVEN FURTHER OFF THE DEEP END.
SHOULD HAVE--RUN--WHILE YOU HAD--TIME!
FROM WHAT YOU'VE BECOME, TOMBSTONE?
FROM THE "OLD WAYS" TO ON YOUR KNEES IN A JUNKYARD, READY TO MURDER AN INNOCENT WOMAN, NAMED NAOMI CHU, OVER SOME SICK EMOTIONAL TRIP?
THERE'S ENOUGH TRUTH IN THE BLUFF FOR IT TO WORK...
THOSE YOUR LAST WORDS?
I THOUGHT... PRIDED YOURSELF ON BEING--PROFESSIONAL! NOW YOU'RE--MONSTER--NO CONTROL!
YOU LOSE YOURSELF--AND THE HANDS--REALLY WON--HAVEN'T THEY?

...COMBINED WITH THE DETAILS PROVIDED BY TERROR'S "ACQUISITIONS," IT'S A WINNING HAND ALL AROUND.
THE WITCHING HOUR COMES AND GOES, AND WITH IT THE INCORPOREAL THING THAT IS ZZANAMI.
A RELATIVELY CALMER TOMBSTONE IS SATISFIED WITH THIS WAY OF INCREASING THE HAND'S VULNERABILITY, DEPRIVING THEM OF THEIR MATERNAL ANCHOR.
THANKS.
WITH THE KILLER DEFUSED, I'M WILLING TO LET HIM WALK FOR THE MOMENT, MORE CONCERNED WITH A SINGLE LIFE--
--AND THE MULTIPLE THREATS OF THE MOBSTERS STILL AT LARGE.
GOT ALL YOU WANTED, HORNHEAD?
THERE'S STILL PLENTY MORE TO GO AROUND...
I WAS THERE FOR THE INSPIRATION FOR THIS MALICIOUS GREED, THE FALL OF THE SO-CALLED KINGPIN.
I'M NOT ABOUT TO STAND STILL WHILE ANOTHER RISES UP TO TAKE HIS PLACE...
OR YOU LOOKING FOR A MERIT BADGE, TOO?
LOOKS LIKE WE MISSED ALL THE FUN.


BACK IN A CITY CALLED NEW YORK, WHERE A ONCE-UPON-A-TIME MONARCH NOW RULES IN HIS MIND ONLY...
I WORK HARD FOR A LIVIN', SO HARD FOR A LIVIN'!
HO-HO-HO! WHAT'S THIS?
CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY THIS YEAR!
WHATCHA SAY, PALLY? HALF FULL BOTTLE BEATS COLLECTIN' EMPTY CANS EVERY MORNIN'. KNOW WHAT I MEAN?
...ASSUMING HE EVEN HAS A MIND LEFT AT THIS POINT.
AND SINCE YOU AIN'T TREATIN' THIS WITH THE PROPER RESPECT...
HEY!
WILSON FISK STILL DOES POSSESS AN INTELLECT, OF COURSE--


—DOMINATED BY A CUNNING MIND, SHARP AS THE BLADE IN HIS HAND.
WHICH IS TO SAY, VERY SHARP, INDEED.
OH DEAR GOD...
WHAT'RE YOU--?!
DRINK UP.
LOST IN STREETS HE'D LOST SIGHT OF FROM AN IVORY TOWER, HE NEEDS THIS TIME TO RELEARN HIS KINGDOM BY TRAVELING AMONG THE COMMONERS.
STAKING A NEW CLAIM.
FIFTEEN BUCKS, BIG GUY. DON'T SPEND IT ALL IN ONE PLACE.
CERTAIN LESSONS ARE MASTERED THE HARD WAY; AMONG THEM ONE TRUTH IN PARTICULAR THOSE IN THE WEST WILL NEVER REALIZE.
REAL KINGS AREN'T MADE.
THEY'RE BORN INTO ROYALTY.
"DEAD MAN'S HAND" CONTINUES IN NOMAD #6, BEFORE CONCLUDING IN PUNISHER'S WAR JOURNAL #87! AND DD #310 HAS HORNHEAD BACK IN NYC FACING THE MENACE OF CALYPSO! BE THERE TIMES THREE!

# DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

RALPH MACCHIO: EDITOR — PAT GARRAHY: ASSISTANT EDITOR
c/o MARVEL COMICS — 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH — NEW YORK, NEW YORK — 10016

Dear Dedicated Daredevil Doers,

I have been reading Marvel Comics for over twenty years now, and there were times when I wanted to express my interests, disinterests, or just win a "no-prize" award for one of your far and few between discrepancies. I also regret to say that I am not a faithful reader of DD, but after reading issue #305, I think this is going to change. I see Spider-Man almost everywhere now, but never like this. Peter Parker assisting Daredevil by going undercover to stop the Surgeon General--excellent! I for one think that Peter Parker should give up the photography gig, and become a private detective. This stuff was so suspenseful, I was literally sitting on the edge of my seat. I can't wait for the conclusion. Keep up the great work!

Paul R. Lind
Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613
(Full address withheld by request)

Dear Deviled Eggs,

I just finished reading DAREDEVIL #305, and boy do I have something to say to you! SICK! SICK!! SICK!!! I realize that this sort of thing goes on, but, please, do I have to read about it!?!

Other than my obvious complaint, I loved it!! Spidey has always worked well with ol' Hornhead. I am looking forward to the next issue.

Speaking of Spidey, why wasn't anything said about the Kingpin? It seems to me that Spidey had a huge old grudge with el Fatso, and at the very least I expected Spidey to ask why he wasn't called in to help. Not that the man in the red suit needed help, but it would have been professional courtesy to ask, yes? A simple, "good job," on Spidey's behalf would have also been appropriate.

In the upcoming saga about the Fat Man's empire, do me a favor--don't kill Wilson Fisk. Although I'm glad to see him gone, I would like him to be alive and in prison. By the way, does Mr. Chichester ever get tired of being compared to Frank Miller?

Dan Wentzel
R.D. #3, Box 195
Newport, PA 17074

**Spidey has enough problems of his own as of late, so we don't think he even had the time to lend DD a hand during the "Fall of the Kingpin" saga. Besides, Dan, we think that you would agree, Matt Murdock had a bigger claim to "el Fatso" than anyone else in the good old Marvel Universe, yes?**

**Also, we think that the correct way to phrase your last question is, "Does Frank Miller ever get tired of being compared to D.G. Chichester?"**

Dear Hornhead Ralf,

Here I am, knocking keys of my computer, writing this letter to you guys at DAREDEVIL. I have no idea how I should start this letter, because it's really becoming quite cliche to write, "Congratulations on blah, blah, blah..." or "I've just finished reading..." Thus I will get right to the facts. DAREDEVIL #305 was fantastic!

In just a short amount of time, I've become one of D.G. Chichester's biggest fans. D.G. writes so brilliantly in his genre--gritty and hard-hitting. His stories are so complex and vastly more interesting. The guest spot of our friendly neighborhood Spider-Man had a great plot, and was very complex. I also caught the prologue to D.G.'s upcoming series TERROR INC. on page one. Now I hope that Terror returns the favor by having DD guest star in his own book when it debuts. Las Vegas, for some reason or another, has always been an ideal setting for a comic book story. I am looking forward to "Dead Man's Hand."

The new artists, Scott McDaniel and Chris Ivy also did a very respectable job. I was surprised when I saw this first issue's art, because it is very different from the previous work I have seen by McDaniel. Scott's work on WHAT IF was much looser, and totally different from what it is now. Chris' inks meshed very well. I also applaud the art done on the splash pages, as they would have made great covers!

Joey Marchese
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**Mr. Chichester is very glad to hear that you not only liked his recent issues of DD, but that you liked Terror's debut in the Marvel Universe as well! D.G. has been so busy as of late writing DAREDEVIL, TERROR INC., the upcoming NIGHTSTALKERS, various HELLRAISER projects, a screenplay that will be produced by Clive Barker, and the forthcoming PUNISHER CAPTAIN AMERICA bookshelf limited series--BLOOD AND GLORY (WHEW!!!), that he absolutely needed to take a few issues of DAREDEVIL off (we think he has got a great excuse, don't you?) Anyway, don't despair! Scott McDaniel's sidekick--Glenn Herdling--will be filling in for Mr. Chichester for the next two issues. You may remember Glenn as the writer of Scott's first Marvel job--that fateful issue of WHAT IF in which Glenn proposed to his sweetie. Or you might remember Glenn for being the editor of the very trendy Jon Bon Jovi-esque NOMAD title. Or you may remember Glenn as being Pat Garrahy's ex-boss (pbbbbbbttttthh!!!). Or you may remember Glenn as that gawky kid who hung around Scott during their college days. That's right! These two bozos have known each other since their youthful days at Bucknell University!! And to make matters even worse, Scott and his lovely wife, Amy, introduced Glenn to his wife-to-be, Laura!!! Small world, ain't it?**

Dear Ralph and Pat,

I've met some pretty vicious vixens this past week--in the comic books I've been reading that is! Only a few days ago I was holding my breath as (**We interrupt this letter to note that this letter has been severely edited because the author of this letter was so bold as to actually make slight comparisons of our characters to those that are not ours, but are in a major motion picture that is in very many theaters even now--weeks after its release. Not that we mind or anything, we just figured that this was the most humorous way of getting "the author's" point across without actually naming our competition. Oh, and we're referring to the person who wrote this letter as "the author of this letter," just because you haven't read his name yet. It's at the end of this letter, you know. We now return you to "the author's" letter at a point after which all this nonsense began. Carry on.**) and now I've just finished reading DAREDEVILS #305 and #306, in which DD and Spidey almost lost their livers to the very pretty (but completely crazy) Surgeon General. Hey, is there some sinister side to this organ donor business that the media hasn't been sharing with the public? This psycho-with-a-knife opus wasn't based on anything you came across in the newspaper, was it?

Well, no matter where you found your inspiration, "Under the Knife" and "Emergency Procedure" were a couple of genuinely entertaining horror-fests. The covers of both issues were very traditional too. They reminded me of some of those Jack Kirby classics of yesteryear, with their eye-catching tableaus and bombastic blurbs.

Though I think D.G. did a better job on "Knife", his oft-intrusive, and frequently self-conscious first person narration turned purpler by the panel. I liked the way Angeline found her victims on the dance floors of Manhattan clubs. Where else does one find meat, but at a meat market! And I appreciated the glimpses D.G. offered us as to how DD used his heightened senses to detect the clues the Surgeon General left behind in the ashes and on/in the mashed cockroach. But I also liked the brief exchange between DD and those clowns in the park; the dialogue between DD and the emergency room staff; and that ironic "blind-leading-the-blind" scene involving Matt and Karen on Third Avenue. I even got a kick out of those Vegas hoods wanting to hire Foggy as their mouthpiece for the upcoming "Dead Man's Hand" storyline. Should be good!

I have no complaints about the artwork either. Scott McDaniel may never make me forget Gene Colan (who would?), but the sightless swashbuckler looked as impressive as ever. And I liked Peter Parker's moustache, too--I was disappointed to find out it wasn't real!

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**Oh, we've said enough already!**

**Next issue: It's a surprise INFINITY WAR crossover--when DD's really ugly and very evil doppelganger shows up just in time to tangle with CALYPSO! (Yes, it's the same "Calypso" that made Peter Parker's life miserable for the first five issues of his silver/gold/platinum/ polybagged, sans-adjective, SPIDER-MAN series!! You didn't think we'd pass up the chance to bring her back, did you!?!)**